

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EPA-01 ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02
STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03
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-----050081 021349Z /43

P 021334Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7008
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

GENEVA ALSO FOR MTN
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

DEPARTMENT PASS EPA FOR COSTLE

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: EEC, SENV, ETRD
SUBJECT: US/EC NEGOTIATIONS ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

REF: BRUSSELS 4043

1. MICHEL CARPENTIER, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
SERVICE, BRIEFED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MAY 31 ON DECISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL TO MANDATE THE COMMISSION TO
NEGOTIATE WITH THE US ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES (SEPTTEL).
2. CARPENTIER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD AGREE
TO NEGOTIATIONS AND PROPOSED THAT INITIAL DISCUSSIONS TAKE
PLACE JUNE 29, 30, IN WASHINGTON. CARPENTIER SAID HE
COULD PARTICIPATE HIMSELF ON THESE DATES. HE ALSO
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SUGGESTED THAT A SECOND MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR
SEPTEMBER 29 IN BRUSSELS, I.E. AFTER THE GENERAL US/EC
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATIONS SEPTEMBER 27-28.

3. CARPENTIER SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE US AGREES, THE JUNE
MEETING COULD DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- (A) FRAMEWORK FOR THE AGREEMENT
- (B) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES
IN THE US
- (C) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES
IN THE EC
- (D) NEXT STEPS.

HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME US SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TOPICS.

4. CARPENTIER STATED THAT HE IS HOPEFUL THE TALKS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING POTENTIAL TRADE BARRIERS AND THAT IT IS URGENT TO BEGIN THIS EFFORT SOON SINCE THE US IS MOVING QUICKLY TO IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS UNDER THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT AND THE EC IS ALSO MOVING TO DEVELOP ITS REGULATIONS IN THIS AREA.

5. HE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED STRONGLY THAT THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH BROADER MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND COULD EVEN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE LATTER.

6. ALTHOUGH COMMISSION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGOTIATION, MEMBER STATES REPRESENTATIVES WOULD ALSO ATTEND NEGOTIATING SESSION. CARPENTIER STRESSED THAT MEMBER STATE PARTICIPATION IS NOT AN EFFORT TO TIE THE COMMISSION'S HANDS IN ANY WAY SINCE THE COUNCIL HAD GIVEN THE COMMISSION THE FULL POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE MEMBER STATES.

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7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WILLINGNESS TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCEPTIBILITY OF PROPOSED DATES.
HINTON

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